

IN THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A surface covering comprising:  
a consolidated layer comprising jaspe agglomerated particles, wherein the jaspe agglomerated particles comprise a first region and second region of different visual characteristics.
2. The surface covering of claim 1, wherein the first region has an amount of filler level different from the amount of filler level of the second region.
3. The surface covering of claim 1, wherein the first region comprises a first polymeric material and the second region comprises a second polymeric material.
4. The surface covering of claim 3, wherein the first and second polymeric material are thermoplastic.
5. The surface covering of claim 3, wherein the first polymeric material has a first average molecular weight and the second polymeric material has a second average molecular weight.
6. The surface covering of claim 1, wherein the first region includes a first material and the second region includes a second material.

7. The surface covering of claim 1, wherein the first region is transparent or translucent.

8. The surface covering of claim 1, wherein the consolidated layer further comprises a second plurality of jaspe agglomerated particles, the second particles having a visual characteristic different than the visual characteristic of the first jaspe agglomerated particles.

9. A welding rod comprising:  
consolidated jaspe agglomerated particles, wherein the jaspe agglomerated particles comprises a first region and second region of different visual characteristics.

10. The welding rod of claim 9, wherein the first region has a filler level different from a filler level of the second region.

11. The welding rod of claim 9, wherein the first region comprises a first polymeric material and the second region comprises a second polymeric material.

12. The welding rod of claim 11, wherein the first and second polymeric material are thermoplastic.

13. The welding rod of claim 11, wherein the first polymeric material has a first average molecular weight and the second polymeric material has a second average molecular weight.

14. The welding rod of claim 9, wherein the first region includes a first material and the second region includes a second material.

15. The welding rod of claim 9, wherein the first region is transparent or translucent.

16. The welding rod of claim 9, wherein the consolidated layer further comprises a second plurality of jasper agglomerated particles, the second particles having a visual characteristic different than the visual characteristic of the first jasper agglomerated particles.

REPEATED

17. A method of forming a surface covering comprising:  
agglomerating a plurality of particles to form a jaspe agglomerated particle, the particles forming the jaspe agglomerated particle each including at least one polymeric material, a first plurality of the particles forming the jaspe agglomerated particle having a visual characteristic different than the visual characteristic of a second plurality of the particles forming the jaspe agglomerated particle; and  
consolidating the jaspe agglomerated particles to form a layer having a jaspe finish.
18. The method of claim 17, wherein the polymeric material comprises a thermoplastic.
19. The method of claim 17, wherein the jaspe agglomerated particles are consolidated to form a layer by pressing in a roll press, a flat bed press or belted press.
20. The method of claim 19, wherein the roll press is a calender.
21. The method of claim 19, wherein the belted press is a double belted press.
22. The method of claim 17, wherein the jaspe agglomerated particles are mixed with a second plurality of particles including at least one polymeric material prior to consolidating the jaspe agglomerated particles to form the layer.



28. The method of claim 17, wherein the visually different characteristics include a first polymeric material having a first average particle size and a second polymeric material having a second average particle size.

29. The method of claim 17, wherein the first plurality of particles forming the jaspe agglomerated particle are transparent or translucent.

30. A seamed surface covering comprising:

two surface covering sheets joined by a seam, the seam including a consolidation of jaspe agglomerated particles, the jaspe agglomerated particles having a first region and a second region of different visual characteristics.

31. The seamed surface covering of claim 30, wherein the surface covering sheets comprise a consolidated layer including jaspe agglomerated particles, wherein the jaspe agglomerated particles comprises a first region and second region of different visual characteristics.

32. The seamed surface covering of claim 30, wherein the seam comprises a thermoplastic.

33. The seamed surface covering of claim 30, wherein the seam is visually distinct from the surface covering sheets.



38. The method of claim 34, wherein the visually different characteristics are selected from the group consisting of a first polymeric material having a first number average molecular weight and a second polymeric material having a second number average molecular weight, a first polymeric material having a first average particle size and a second polymeric material having a second average particle size, a first polymeric material being substantially opaque and a second polymeric material being substantially transparent or translucent, a first polymeric material exhibiting a first color and a second polymeric material exhibiting a second color, a first polymeric material exhibiting a first shade of a color and a second polymeric material exhibiting a second shade of a color, a first polymeric material having a first number average molecular weight and a second polymeric material having a second number average molecular weight, and a first polymeric material having a first average particle size and a second polymeric material having a second average particle size.

39. The method of claim 34, wherein of particles which form the jasper agglomerated particles are thermoplastic.